

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4045

To award competitive grants to minority serving institutions to establish
centers of excellence for teacher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To award competitive grants to minority serving institutions
to establish centers of excellence for teacher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Teacher Di-
5 versity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

7 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“PART C—CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

2 **“SEC. 231. DEFINITIONS.**

3 “As used in this part:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
5 ble institution’ means—

6 “(A) an institution of higher education
7 that has a teacher preparation program that
8 meets the requirements of section 203(b)(2)
9 and that is—

10 “(i) a part B institution (as defined in
11 section 322);

12 “(ii) a Hispanic-serving institution (as
13 defined in section 502);

14 “(iii) a Tribal College or University
15 (as defined in section 316);

16 “(iv) an Alaska Native-serving institu-
17 tion (as defined in section 317(b)); or

18 “(v) a Native Hawaiian-serving insti-
19 tution (as defined in section 317(b));

20 “(B) a consortium of institutions described
21 in subparagraph (A); or

22 “(C) an institution described in subpara-
23 graph (A), or a consortium described in sub-
24 paragraph (B), in partnership with any other
25 institution of higher education, but only if the
26 center of excellence established under section

1 232 is located at an institution described in
2 subparagraph (A).

3 “(2) HIGHLY QUALIFIED.—The term ‘highly
4 qualified’ when used with respect to an individual
5 means that the individual is highly qualified as de-
6 termined under section 9101 of the Elementary and
7 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)
8 or section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities
9 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

10 “(3) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED READING RE-
11 SEARCH.—The term ‘scientifically based reading re-
12 search’ has the meaning given such term in section
13 1208 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6368).

15 “(4) SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RESEARCH.—The
16 term ‘scientifically based research’ has the meaning
17 given such term in section 9101 of the Elementary
18 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 7801).

20 **“SEC. 232. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

21 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts
22 appropriated to carry out this part, the Secretary is au-
23 thorized to award competitive grants to eligible institu-
24 tions to establish centers of excellence.

1 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants provided by the Sec-
2 retary under this part shall be used to ensure that current
3 and future teachers are highly qualified, by carrying out
4 one or more of the following activities:

5 “(1) Implementing reforms within teacher prep-
6 aration programs to ensure that such programs are
7 preparing teachers who are highly qualified, are able
8 to understand scientifically based research, and are
9 able to use advanced technology effectively in the
10 classroom, including use for instructional techniques
11 to improve student academic achievement, by—

12 “(A) retraining faculty; and

13 “(B) designing (or redesigning) teacher
14 preparation programs that—

15 “(i) prepare teachers to close student
16 achievement gaps, are based on rigorous
17 academic content, scientifically based re-
18 search (including scientifically based read-
19 ing research), and challenging State stu-
20 dent academic content standards; and

21 “(ii) promote strong teaching skills.

22 “(2) Providing sustained and high-quality
23 preservice clinical experience, including the men-
24 toring of prospective teachers by exemplary teachers,
25 substantially increasing interaction between faculty

1 at institutions of higher education and new and ex-
2 perience teachers, principals, and other administra-
3 tors at elementary schools or secondary schools, and
4 providing support, including preparation time, for
5 such interaction.

6 “(3) Developing and implementing initiatives to
7 promote retention of highly qualified teachers and
8 principals, including minority teachers and prin-
9 cipals, including programs that provide—

10 “(A) teacher or principal mentoring from
11 exemplary teachers or principals; or

12 “(B) induction and support for teachers
13 and principals during their first 3 years of em-
14 ployment as teachers or principals, respectively.

15 “(4) Awarding scholarships based on financial
16 need to help students pay the costs of tuition, room,
17 board, and other expenses of completing a teacher
18 preparation program.

19 “(5) Disseminating information on effective
20 practices for teacher preparation and successful
21 teacher certification and licensure assessment prepa-
22 ration strategies.

23 “(6) Activities authorized under sections 202,
24 203, and 204.

1 “(c) APPLICATION.—Any eligible institution desiring
2 a grant under this section shall submit an application to
3 the Secretary at such a time, in such a manner, and ac-
4 companied by such information as the Secretary may re-
5 quire.

6 “(d) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The minimum
7 amount of each grant under this part shall be \$500,000.

8 “(e) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—
9 An eligible institution that receives a grant under this part
10 may not use more than 2 percent of the grant funds for
11 purposes of administering the grant.

12 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
13 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this
14 part.

15 **“SEC. 233. APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “‘There shall be available to the Secretary, from funds
17 not otherwise appropriated, \$50,000,000 for the period
18 beginning with fiscal year 2008 and ending with fiscal
19 year 2012, to carry out this part beginning with academic
20 year 2008–2009, which shall remain available until ex-
21 pended. The authority to carry out this part shall expire
22 at the end of fiscal year 2012.’”.

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